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The study as a whole is of decided interest, and shows a painstaking, complete, and minute investigation on the part of the author and compiler.

L. P. LANE.

ASSISTED EMIGRATION.

Del Patronato degli Emigranti in Italia e all' Estero. By Dr. Egisto Rossi. Relazione al Primo Congresso Geographico Italiano, Genoa, 1892. Rome, 1893. Pp. 93.

This paper gives a history of the development of the societies which have sprung up in every new country on the globe, to assist ignorant emigrants to start in life under the changed conditions. In the United States the Germans have been foremost in this direction, and have done a good work for their countrymen in many ways. Nearly all the European colonies in New York have organized in some way to protect and encourage those who come to the United States. They have built hospitals, and they dispense much money in charity; they take charge of savings, and find employment for those in search of work; they give legal counsel, purchase tickets, and even acquire homesteads; in short, they do everything in their power to make it easy for the ignorant and helpless to begin life anew. And this activity, while most pronounced in the great port of entry in the United States, is manifested in every place where immigration is present.

The great defect in the organization of the Italian societies is the lack of coöperation in the home country. The English government has offered a good example in this respect, and Sig. Rossi has shown most admirably the proper way to organize in Italy in order to secure the same result. The monograph contains many interesting statistics of the work done by these various societies, and is an eloquent plea for an extension of the work in Italy. It is, however, of no particular importance for American readers, except in so far as it shows the extent to which our seaports are flooded by a horde of people who come here totally ignorant of their own interests, and often almost penniless. In proportion as the figures show the need of charity among these people, so does it become more evident that the one problem from the American standpoint is to sift out this indigent and ignorant element before it leaves the shores of Europe. And here

alone it seems is the significance of this eloquent plea for us. We have more than enough of assisted emigrants; but if societies can be organized in Europe to inform emigrants as to the new conditions, to enable the more energetic and worthy ones to come under the most favorable circumstances, and to discourage all those who threaten to become charges upon the community, then will they be deserving of the most cordial support from our people. This seems to be the end desired by the author, and deserves hearty coöperation so long as its activities are strictly limited to the dissemination of information and the encouragement of deserving emigrants from Italy.

W. Z. R.

INDEX NUMBERS.

The following statement is made by Mr. Sauerbeck, in continuation of the figures supplied in former years in a communication to the Secretary of the Institute of Bankers (London):—

3 Moorgate Street Buildings, E.C.

12th January, 1893.

SIR:—

I have much pleasure in giving you the result of my index numbers of the prices of 45 commodities (1867-77 = 100).

1873	111	1887	68
1880	88	1888	70
1888	82	1889	72
1884	76	1890	72
1885	72	1891	72
1886	69	1892	68

The index number for 1892 is 4 points lower than that for the preceding year, and is on a par with 1887, the lowest figure on record. The great trade development in 1888-89 led to an enormous increase in the production of many commodities, and the depression which commenced in 1890, aggravated by the financial difficulties, by the effects of the McKinley Tariff, deficient harvests and the fall of silver, continued all through 1891 and 1892.

The various articles comprised in the group of corn declined almost uninterruptedly during the past year until, at the end of the year, English wheat had fallen to 25s. 8d. per quarter, the lowest price known for the last 100 or 130 years. The middling and inferior sorts of beef and mutton were depressed particularly towards the end of the year, but pork ruled distinctly higher than in 1891. Sugar did not vary to any great extent, but the lower classes of tea have risen sharply since the month of August. Coffee has now been on a very high level for about 6 years, and is the only